

Message Text

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PAGE 01 ATHENS 00781 291635Z

45

ACTION EUR-12

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TAGS: PINS, GK, US, MARR, MPOL

SUBJECT: GOG SPOKESMAN COMMENTS ON CORFU DEMONSTRATION
AGAINST U.S. DESTROYER

REF: ATHENS 720 (NOTAL)

1. GOG OFFICIAL SPOKESMAN, AT HIS DAILY EVENING PRESS
BRIEFING ON JANUARY 28, MADE FOLLOWING STATEMENT IN
CONNECTION WITH DEMONSTRATIONS IN CORFU JANUARY 27
WHICH FORCED CANCELLATION OF PORT VISIT THERE BY USS BYRD:
"ALTHOUGH DURING THE FIRST WEEKS OF THE CYPRUS CRISIS THE
GREEK PEOPLE BECAME JUSTIFIABLY INDIGNANT OVER THE POLICY
OF THE AMERICAN GOVERNMENT, IT SHOULD BE STRESSED THAT THE
AMERICAN PEOPLE, BOTH THROUGH CONGRESS AND THROUGH
THE PRESS, EXPRESSED THEIR SYMPATHY FOR THE GREEK POSITION.
CONSEQUENTLY, DEMONSTRATIONS SUCH AS THOSE WHICH TOOK
PLACE IN CORFU, WHICH IN ESSENCE ARE DIRECTED AGAINST THE
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PAGE 02 ATHENS 00781 291635Z

AMERICAN PEOPLE, NOT ONLY FAIL TO SERVE BUT ACTUALLY HARM

GREEK INTERESTS."

2. GREEK PRESS JANUARY 29 REPORTED STATEMENT, WHICH WAS ATTRIBUTED TO RESPONSIBLE GOVERNMENT SOURCE, ROUTINELY AND TOOK OCCASION OF CORFU INCIDENT TO EDITORIALIZE ON U.S. POLICY IN CYPRUS. AKROPOLIS (CENTER) WROTE THAT DEMONSTRATIONS SUCH AS THAT IN CORFU DO NOT CONTRIBUTE TO GREEK NATIONAL INTERESTS BUT GENERATE UNFAVORABLE PUBLIC IMPRESSION. SAME PAPER ADDED THAT FEELINGS OF GREEK PEOPLE ARE OUTCOME OF USG STAND WHICH SINCE JULY 20, 1974 IS OPENLY IN FAVOR OF TURKEY. TO VIMA (LIBERAL), IN OPINION COLUMN, COMMENTED THAT CORFU CITIZENS GAVE APPROPRIATE ANSWER TO THOSE "WHO PRETEND TO BE THE GUARDIANS OF FREEDOM AND SELF-DETERMINATION. THE AMERICANS OF DR. KISSINGER." SAME NEWSPAPER ALSO PRINTED RESOLUTION OF MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF CORFU PROTESTING AMERICAN FLEET VISIT. RESOLUTION, WHICH WAS APPROVED AFTER DEMONSTRATION, DECLARES PEOPLE OF CORFU "PROTEST HOSTILE STAND OF US GOVERNMENT TOWARD GREEK NATIONAL RIGHTS AND CONTINUED SUFFOCATION OF RIGHTS OF GREEK CYPRIOTS."

3. AVGHI (COMMUNIST) WROTE THAT PEOPLE OF CORFU, LED BY MUNICIPAL COUNCIL AND LABOR, PROFESSIONAL AND SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATIONS, DEMANDED THAT GOG PROHIBIT VISIT OF US VESSEL. AVGHI ADDED THAT GREEK PEOPLE DESIRE THAT ALL VISITS OF SIXTH FLEET VESSELS TO GREEK PORTS STOP. KATHIMERINI (CONSERVATIVE) REMARKED THAT CORFU DEMONSTRATION EXPRESSED FEELINGS OF ENTIRE GREEK PEOPLE REACTING AGAINST "INJUSTICE, MOCKERY, TREASON, AND HYPOCRISY" OF TRAGEDY OF CYPRUS, PROVOCATION OF TURKEY AND (US) SUPPORT GIVEN TO JUNTA.

4. LATER SAME DAY TWO COMMUNIST (KKE) DEPUTIES SUBMITTED PARLIAMENTARY QUESTION TO MINISTERS OF DEFENSE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS REFERRING TO "PROVOCATIVE VISIT" TO CORFU OF SIXTH FLEET UNIT AND ASKING THE MINISTERS TO INFORM THE PARLIAMENT IF THEY KNEW ABOUT THIS VISIT AND TO EXPLAIN "WHAT STEPS THE GOG IS TAKING TO STOP THE PROVOCATIVE APPEARANCES OF AMERICAN WARSHIPS IN GREEK HARBORS." ACCORDING TO GREEK PARLIAMENTARY PROCEDURE, LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 03 ATHENS 00781 291635Z

SECRETARY OF PARLIAMENT TOOK QUESTION FOR REFERRAL TO APPROPRIATE MINISTRIES WHERE REPLIES WILL BE PREPARED IN DUE COURSE AND SUBMITTED TO DEPUTIES WHO POSED QUESTION. KUBISCH

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